

Regular Board Meeting of April 2, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Whitehall School District 4, 47 and 2 of Madison and Jefferson Counties was held on April 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whitehall High School.

Board Members:

Gina Ossello
Jeff Briggs
Scott Prevost
Bill Whitehurst
Sharon Howard
Paul Shaw

Administrators:

John T. Sullivan, Superintendent
Patti Drake, District Clerk
Hannah Nieskens, 6-12 Principal
Kurtis Koenig, K-5 Principal

Visitors: James Schrank, Josh Kinard, Andy Ellingson

AGENDA

ITEM:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Gina Ossello

Flag Salute

Approval of Agenda

Sharon Howard made a joint motion to approve the agenda.

Paul Shaw seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard,
Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Visitors

The visitors were welcomed to the meeting and were told that a public comment period for matters of a general nature would be held later in the meeting.

Minutes

Jeff Briggs made a joint motion to approve the minutes of the 1st Special Board Meeting, the 2nd Special Board Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting of March 6, 2019

Scott Prevost seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard,
Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal

(See attached)

High School Principal

(See attached) We have also received a grant for \$7,000 I Graduate Grant from OPI. This replaces the Graduation Matters Grant.

Superintendent

(See attached) We had two individuals submit the paperwork for the two trustee positions, James Reiff and Bobbi Wagner. Mr. Sullivan thanked Sharon Howard for her service on the board, he also thanked the board members for serving on the different committees.

OLD BUSINESS

Position Update

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that currently there are 2 elementary positions open and we have received 12 applications. Mr. Koenig and Ms. Nieskens have narrowed the candidates to 5. They will hold interviews on the 11th and 15th of April. We have 10 applications for the high school principal position. Interviews will be held the last week of April.

Harlow's Extra-Curricular Activity Contract

The representatives from Harlow's provided the board with their proposal for the extra-curricular activity contract. Some of the changes to the contract are increasing the rate per mile from \$1.97 to \$2.01, increasing the down time, per driver from \$15.25 to \$20.80 on both the bus owned by Harlow and the Whitehall School activity bus, increasing the service rate from \$85.00 to \$88.85, increasing the driver services fee, per driver from \$19.40 to \$21.35. The storage of \$100 per month would stay the same and there was never a price for cleaning the school's bus and a one-time fee of \$35.00 has been added. They are asking that this contract be signed for 5 years at a 4% increase on all services each year. Mr. Sullivan informed the board the only increase he is concerned about is the driver down time and the driver services fee. The question was asked what do other districts pay for driver down time, Andy Ellingson from Harlow informed the board that Boulder pays a flat fee of \$65.00. Mr. Sullivan will check around to other districts to see what they pay. After much discussion a motion was made to table any action until the board could review the contract in length.

Scott Prevost made a motion to table this action until the next meeting. Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Sullivan provided the board with the completed Three-year Strategic Plan. He went through each of the different sections explaining what the recommended future projects were.

Paul Shaw made a motion to accept the Three-year Strategic Plan as submitted.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

School Board Policy Updates

The Montana School Board Association has recommended some changes or additions to school policies. Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Nieskens have reviewed the recommendations and they have been provided to the board for a 1st reading. The policies to be changed are 1027, and 1027P and 4020, additional policies are 1610, 2168, 4315, 4410, 5223 and 7080. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the changes and additions.

Technology Fund Levies

Mr. Sullivan discussed with the board the possibility of running a technology levy in both districts. The school year of 2017-18 approximately \$112,000 was spent on technology, the funds were taken out of the REAP grant, Multi-district fund, School-wide Title, 21st Century grant, and the general funds. The current levies would cost the owner of a \$100,000 house approximately \$2.56 in the elementary and \$4.56 in the high school. If we were to run a \$50,000 levy in each district it would cost the owner of a \$100,000 house approximately \$6.40 and \$11.39. The concern of the board was the timing, with the mine shutting down taxes are going to rise.

A motion was called for by Board Chair Gina Ossello.
There was no motion made, so therefore there was no action.

Recommend for Rehire Tenured Teachers for 2019-2020 School Year

Ms. Nieskens recommended the following tenured teachers to be rehired: Corrie Bateman, Holly Harper, Rodney Head, Julie Kieckbusch, Dan Lacey, Lauren McDonald, Malcolm Neill, Melissa Robbins, Kathy Ross, Kerry Sacry, Robyn Smith and Kristen Wirth. Mr. Koenig recommended the following tenured teachers to be rehired: Martha Farrand, Janet Heilig, Michelle Hoover, Michelle Johnson, Tamara Kidwell, Donna Loomis, Britt McLean, Casey McLean, Kim McLean and Merri VanAusdol.

Bill Whitehurst made a joint motion to rehire the following: Corrie Bateman, Holly Harper, Rodney Head, Julie Kieckbusch, Dan Lacey, Malcolm Neill, Melissa Robbins, Kathy Ross, Janet Heilig, Kerry Sacry.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Sharon Howard made an elementary motion to rehire the following: Martha Farrand, Michelle Hoover, Michelle Johnson, Tamara Kidwell, Donna Loomis, Lauren McDonald, Britt McLean, Casey McLean, Kim McLean, Robyn Smith, Merri VanAusdol, Kristen Wirth.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Recommend for Rehire Non-Tenured Teachers for 2019-2020 School Year

Ms. Nieskens recommended the following non-tenured teachers to be rehired: Beth Clarkson, Casey Harris, Zach Kozicky, Katie Menig, Christy Todd and Gayle Walter. Mr. Koenig recommended the

following non-tenured teachers to be rehired: Stephanie Forcella, Brennan Hayes and Jeff Vial.

Paul Shaw made a joint motion to rehire the following: Beth Clarkson, Casey Harris, Zach Kozicky, Katie Menig, Christy Todd, Jeff Vial, Gayle Walter.

Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Jeff Briggs made an elementary motion to rehire the following: Stephanie Forcella and Brennan Hayes.

Scott Prevost seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

**Recommend for Hire
Superintendent for 2019-2020
School Year**

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that the superintendent position was advertised in-house and Ms. Nieskens was the only applicant. He recommended the board hire Ms. Nieskens for the superintendent position.

Scott Prevost made a joint motion to hire Hannah Nieskens as Superintendent.

Paul Shaw seconded the motion.

Discussion: Jeff Briggs informed the board that he received a phone call concerning the hiring of Ms. Nieskens.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Abstain: Jeff Briggs

Motion carried

Handbook Approval

Ms. Nieskens emailed a copy of the Activity, Coaches and 6-12 Student Handbooks to the board with the changes that were made. She went over the changes that were made to each of the handbooks and informed the board she agreed to all of the changes.

Jeff Briggs made a joint motion to approve the handbooks as submitted. Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard, Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Substitute Staff -

Mr. Sullivan asked the board to approve the hiring of Sandi Mabbott as a substitute. He also asked to board to hire Bill Hildebrandt as a paraprofessional for the rest of the year. The district had a student enroll that requires a one on one aide.

Paul Shaw made a joint motion to hire Sandi Mabbott as a substitute. Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.

In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard,
Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Sharon Howard made an elementary motion to hire Bill Hildebrandt for
the rest of the school year.
Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.
In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Claims and Accounts

Claims approval list was presented to the board.

Paul Shaw made a high school motion to approve payment of the high
school claims for April as submitted.
Bill Whitehurst seconded the motion.
In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard,
Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Scott Prevost made an elementary motion to approve payment of the
elementary claims for April as submitted.
Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.
In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard
Opposed: None
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Bill Whitehurst made a joint motion to adjourn the meeting.
Paul Shaw seconded the motion.
In Favor: Gina Ossello, Jeff Briggs, Scott Prevost, Sharon Howard,
Paul Shaw, Bill Whitehurst
Opposed: None
Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Signed:

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk